

Greetings,

First off to all of you that are upset, angry or worse about the size of the last Hamchatter that was distributed via electronic media the MRAC board extends its most sincere apology.

When we started this test period three Chatters ago we never envisioned that a Chatter would grow to such a size. If you recall the first two Chatters were less than 600K in length. This last Chatter grew tremendously, directly attributable to the expansion of color images throughout newsletter. Let us assure you that this shall never happen again. The color enhancements shall be removed. **THIS DISTRIBUTION WAS A MAJOR MISTAKE** we are sorry. The production staff is new to electronic file publishing. This has been an experiment in electronic publishing as well as distribution.

Some of you have been on the electronic distribution since the beginning and know that this was not "normal" size Chatter. In fact due the size of the Chatter is why electronic distribution was delayed. When the size of this Chatter was discovered we had four choices. (1) Not sending out Chatter, thereby failing to follow through on the promise to distribute the Chatter electronically and incur the wrath of some members. (2) Distribute the mega size Chatter and endure the wrath of some members. (3) Transmit a warning about the pending size of May Chatter distribution and asking members who wanted to respond in the affirmative by a certain date. But knowing full well that not everyone who wanted would respond, (4) E-mail a letter of explanation of why the May Chatter was not distributed electronically directly affecting options 1 and 2. As you can see the most desirable option is totality dependent on your tolerance. There does not seem to be a single answer for everyone. We were in a lose lose, lose, lose situation.

Those of you who have just been added to the electronic distribution and that this is your first distribution please be assured that the May Chatter was an abnormality large and shall not occur again.

The June Chatter shall return to normal size, at that we will be asking that you respond to the question, Should the MRAC continue the electronic distribution of the Chatter?

Remember that decision to receive the Chatter is voluntary, the MRAC board is not mandating anyone receive the Chatter that does not want it delivered electronically. The electronic distribution is looked upon as away of reducing the operating cost of the club. The paper distribution is the greatest single cost to the club. There will have to be a minimum number of members wishing to receive the Chatter electronically. As of now there are 52 e-mail addresses receiving the Chatter. Which would be a savings of about \$500, 41% of the Chatter budget. With no savings, the annual Chatter costs exceeds the annual dues income.

For those of you who were gracious enough to request in polite terms to be removed from the electronic distribution we ask that you reconsider at lease for the June distribution and than make your final discussion then. We will assure that the June version will be about 600K in size. As one member suggested Chatters should be less than 800K in size. This is very good suggestion, one that we will adopt. Another suggestion has been to limit the use of pictures (or none at all). Perhaps pictures should be just posted on the web site (<http://www.qsl.net/mrac>). Another was to just post the Chatter on the web site and email notifications of when it is available.

For those who were nasty in your remarks, the Internet and email allow people to speak without fully thinking through their remarks. While time in cyberspace is fleeting, memories are not. Nasty remarks are often remembered longer than praises. If any of you feel the board is not doing their job (yes, the board made the decision to try electronic distribution some months ago), you had the opportunity to replace all or anyone of the board members you felt were failing in their duties. Threatening to quit over one oversized e-mail is a poor excuse for leaving the membership. If you feel you must leave, so be it. The board is trying to act in the best interests of the club, well beyond any one member. The board is doing its best in trying to strengthen the club both in membership and financially. If you can not tolerate an error in judgement that costs you nothing but some Internet time you were just looking for an excuse to quit, so quit. If you have a better idea, let's hear it. Or even run for office and get personally involved in the decision making process.

For those of you who replied to the distribution by returning the May Chatter in your reply, we can only assume that was a mistake. If it was an attempt to make a statement, it didn't because I verify the size of my email before downloading. This technique is very useful for those that can do it.

For those that complained about receiving the e-mail on their work machines perhaps your work email should not be listed in our database as an electronic contact.

Again, we apologize for any inconvenience. This has been part of our experiment. This part did not work out well. June will be the final "normal" email distribution of the experiment. Then decisions will be made as to how to proceed. If you have any comments they should be referred to the board via w9rh@arrl.net or to our President, Dave DeFebo WB9BWP (wb9bwp@arrl.net) directly.

P.S. If you are not a cub member but part of an organization on our mailing list, we would like to proceed with only some form of electronic distribution as printing and mailing costs are just too great for us to continue to print and mail regular newsletters to non-members.